

Frequently Asked Question about Utah's Archaeological Permitting System

Q – I just renewed my Utah State Antiquities Permit through the Division of State History. Do I need to get a new Archaeological Permit on July 1, 2006?

A – No, applicants do not need to apply for a new Utah Archaeological Permit until the Antiquities Permit they are working under expires.

Q – Who is permitted under the new system?

A – Individuals now qualify for permits rather than companies or agencies. Individuals may be permitted for the position of Principal Investigator. The position of Field Supervisor or Director no longer requires a permit.

Q – How long are the new Archaeological Permits valid?

A – Archaeological Survey Permits are valid for three years from the date the permit is issued. Archaeological Excavation Permits shall be effective for the amount of time reasonably necessary to complete the research design's excavation, laboratory analysis, reporting and curation. Principal Investigators are asked to estimate this time frame on their Excavation Permit application.

Q – Have the qualifications for a Principal Investigator changed?

A – Yes, the qualifications for Principal Investigator have changed. Applicants will be asked to summarize their qualifications on the permit application and include a Curriculum Vita. To qualify as a Principal Investigator, an applicant shall have a graduate degree in Anthropology, Archaeology, or History, one year of full-time professional experience and one year of supervised field and analytical experience in Utah prehistoric or historic archaeology.

Q – Can an applicant substitute experience for a graduate degree?

A – In lieu of a graduate degree, an individual may submit evidence demonstrating the ability to design and execute a research project in anthropology, archaeology, or history, including the collection and analysis of information, presentation of results in an approved and reviewed format, and the subsequent curation of specimens. This evidence will be evaluated by the permitting authority.

Q – Can an applicant substitute training for one year of full-time professional experience?

A – An applicant may submit evidence of training related to proper methodologies for field procedures, laboratory analysis and reporting within projects involving archaeological resources. The applicant must demonstrate that the training was of a

sufficient duration and a sufficiently broad scope of subject matter to substitute for a full year of full-time professional experience.

Q – Can work outside Utah, but within the general physiographic and cultural regions found in Utah be substituted for one year of supervised field and analytical experience in Utah prehistoric or historic archaeology?

A – Yes.

Q – Is accreditation by the Register of Professional Archaeologists still required for Principal Investigators?

A – No, accreditation by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) is no longer required. However, permit holders must comply with the individual provisions of the Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance promulgated by the RPA. A copy of this Code and Standards will be included with permits issued by the state, and can be found on the Archaeological Permitting section of the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) webpage.

Q – If RPA accreditation is not required, how can the State of Utah ensure the quality of work and ethics outlined in the RPA Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance?

A – If an individual fails to comply with all laws, rules, and permit conditions, their permit may be amended, suspended or revoked. This process may include review by a committee comprised of permitted Principal Investigators. Further, the PLPCO may visit state project areas to insure that Principal Investigators are abiding by laws, rules and permit conditions.

Q – Does the Principal Investigator need to be in field at all times during fieldwork?

A – No, Principal Investigators are responsible for the quality of fieldwork completed on projects they supervise and are expected to take an active role in fieldwork. In the Principal Investigator's absence, the Principal Investigator shall insure that persons performing or supervising work are fully qualified to perform such work and that these individuals comply with the RPA Code and Standards.

Q – Do Principal Investigators acquire project and site numbers from the PLPCO instead of the Utah Division of State History?

A – No, Principal Investigators will continue to obtain project and site numbers from the Utah Division of State History.

Q – Does every individual within an organization need to acquire a Curation Agreement?

A – No, Individuals working for the same employer or agency may be permitted with the same Curation Agreement. A copy of this agreement should accompany each application.

Q – Are Curation Agreements valid for three years now as well?

A – No, Curation Agreements are only valid for one year. Principal Investigators or employers should continue to renew their Curation Agreement annually and send an updated copy of their agreement to the PLPCO each year.

Q – How long will it take for me to receive my permit after I have applied?

A – Applications for a permit will be evaluated by the PLPCO over a 30 day period. Some applications may be reviewed by a committee comprised of permitted Principal Investigators.